

***IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 5TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MISSOURI***

**NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES**

(FORM 25.1)

***Purpose and Availability of Alternative Dispute Resolution Services***

As a party to a civil lawsuit filed in this court, you are entitled to have your dispute resolved by a judge or a jury. However, recognizing that lawsuits can be expensive, inconvenient and lengthy with uncertain results, you should be aware that there are alternative dispute resolution services available that may assist you in settling your dispute. The purpose of alternative dispute resolution services is to foster alternative, economical, fair and voluntary settlements by the parties of lawsuits without delaying or interfering with the parties' rights to resolve lawsuits by trial.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO NOTIFY YOU THAT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU TO ASSIST YOU IN RESOLVING YOUR DISPUTE. THIS NOTICE IS PROVIDED AS A COURTESY ONLY. IN FURNISHING THIS NOTICE, THE COURT DOES NOT ENDORSE NOR TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE SERVICES PROVIDED.

***Rights and Obligations in Alternative Dispute Resolution***

The use of alternative dispute resolution services is binding on the parties who agree to participate to the extent agreed upon by the parties or as ordered by the court. However, the fact that Alternative Dispute Resolution Services are being used by the parties in no way relieves the parties of their obligation in the lawsuit which has been filed, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Your failure to meet your obligations in the lawsuit could result in your lawsuit being dismissed or a default judgment being entered against you.

***Alternative Dispute Resolution Services***

The type of alternative dispute resolution service used is normally determined by agreement of the parties. If an agreement cannot be reached by the parties, the court may be called on to resolve the dispute. There are several types of alternative dispute resolution services available. Some of the more recognized services are mediation, arbitration, alternative neutral evaluation, and neutral fact finding. The type of alternative dispute resolution service that is selected may depend on the nature of the dispute and the attitude and goals of the parties.

Alternative dispute resolution services normally involves the use of an impartial third party who is trained in dispute resolution. The third party is often referred to as a "neutral" or sometimes as a "mediator" or "arbitrator", depending on the type of service being used. The neutral assists the parties, usually for a fee, in resolving their dispute.

***Selecting a Service and Neutral***

The Circuit Clerk of each county in the 5th Judicial Circuit, Andrew and Buchanan Counties, maintains a list of the individuals and organizations who provide alternative dispute resolution services and have met the qualification requirements established by the Missouri Supreme Court to provide such services. If you are interested in using alternative dispute resolution services and wish to contact a neutral, you may obtain a copy of the list from the Circuit Clerk of Andrew County or Buchanan County by requesting a copy in person or by mail (please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of the list).

Circuit Clerk of Andrew County  
Andrew County Courthouse  
Savannah, MO 64485

Circuit Clerk of Buchanan County  
Buchanan County Courthouse  
St. Joseph, MO 64501